

Minutes of Convention

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say that it is very necessary that our inspectors work in complete harmony with commission firms and in acting in good faith with them we have been furnishing a tally of all cattle in every shipment from the territory we represent. Furthermore, when a member failed to list his brands or pay the dues and assessments we have not removed his brands from our records, in the belief that it was an oversight and we would probably catch an animal and thus secure the amount properly due us but this action or rather lack of action has been taken advantage of to the extent of seriously retarding the rejuvenation of the organization. It has come to the knowledge of members of our executive committee that former members have failed to continue under the impression that their brands are being protected and in the event that we recover an estray it is perfectly agreeable to them that we deduct their dues and assessments from the proceeds of the animal but if we do not secure an estray they have had the protection without any cost. The principle is entirely wrong although in the early years of the organization it worked satisfactorily. Some plan must be devised whereby we will only tally cattle for paid up members.

Many stockmen fail to appreciate the organization until they lose stock then they hasten to become members and immediately demand assistance in the recovery of stolen stock or in the prosecution of some alleged rustler. We had one request for financial assistance last fall in a prosecution in which the injured stockman had not been a member for five years.

The work of the inspectors for 1915 shows that their services are just as necessary now as at any time in the past:

Chicago, cattle inspected . . . 204,850
 South Omaha, cattle inspect. 438,017
 Sioux City, cattle inspected . . 55,327

Total 698,194
 South Dakota cattle inspected Chicago 45,800
 South Dakota cattle inspected South Omaha 39,739
 South Dakota cattle inspected Sioux City 45,554

Total 131,093
 Estrays recovered, Chicago . . 1,232
 Estrays recovered, South Omaha 740
 Estrays recovered, Sioux City . . 418

Total 2,390
 Net proceeds, Chicago . . . \$77,972.85
 Net Proceeds, South Omaha 42,901.73
 Net proceeds, Sioux City . . 27,310.72
 Total \$148,185.30

Averages, Chicago: steers, \$74.30; cows, \$54.80.

South Dakota shipped 18,000 more cattle in 1915 than in 1914.

With this statement of the number and value of stock recovered by our inspectors and the further fact that there were more reported cases of stock rustling, proportionately, than at any time during our existence, would it not be unwise to permit this organization to pass out of existence? It is possible that your officers have become discouraged by the apathy and lack of interest displayed by those who have been most benefitted and have not been as active as formerly, altho more circular letters and personal appeals have been sent from the secretary's office during 1915 than in any previous year. The question of continuation or liquidation is up to the stockmen. We are financially able to meet every obligation, but bear in mind that it required years to perfect this organization and should it be permitted to pass out of existence it would take an even longer time to revive or reorganize. The interests you represent are in more need of this organization today than at any time during its history. Twenty years ago your fat cows only averaged \$22.01 per head in Chicago, while today six-months-old calves are worth \$50 per cwt more than that figure. Twenty years

ago average saddle horses were worth \$30 to \$40, while today the same quality will sell readily at \$100. With an increased value of over 100 per cent in twenty years, the risks taken in the stealing of stock is not as great as at that time, for the reason that the association has not the funds with which to safeguard the industry as formerly.

It is conservative to state that there were 50 per cent more cattle shipped into the state last year than were shipped out, and while prices look exceedingly high on available stock, pastures are valueless unless utilized and we look for a large increase of incoming stock for years to come. While war conditions have increased the demand for both cattle and horses a cessation of hostilities at any time cannot cause any material reduction of values owing to the inroads in the breeding stock of this and other producing countries.

We trust that every loyal member will make an earnest effort to increase the membership and thus return the organization to its former position of fostering and protecting your industry.

Respectfully submitted, your
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Agricultural Dep't

Traveling Library on Agriculture

A recent addition to the county agent's office in Alliance is a traveling library on Agriculture and Home Economics. The agricultural books cover: Farm Management, Farm Crops, Soils, Agricultural Engineering, Insects, Plant Diseases, Gardening, Rural Economics, Rural Organization, and also Rural Sociology. The Home Economics cover: Home Sanitation, Cooking, Nutrition and Diet, Feeding Children, Care of Babies, Furnishing the Home, and kindred subjects of interest to women.

These books will remain in our possession for a period of six months and will be let out free for a period of two weeks, after which a renewal for an additional two weeks is possible. A fine of one cent per day for each book kept over time is charged, in order that books will not be kept too long at one place.

Do not hesitate to make use of these books. They are for your use and cost you nothing. If you cannot call personally for the books, write, and they will be forwarded at no expense to you.

A list of the books contained in the library is as follows:

- Agricultural Books**
 Bally—Plant Breeding.
 Carver—Principles of Rural Economics.
 Corbett—Productive Vegetable Gardening.
 Coburn—Swine in America.
 Davidson—Agricultural Engineering.
 Eckles—Dairy Cattle.
 Breeders' Gazette—Farm Buildings.
 Gay—Judging Livestock.
 Georgia—Manual of Weeds.
 Gillette—Constructive Rural Sociology.
 Henry—Feeds and Feeding.
 Hunt—Cereals in America.
 Lyon—Soils.
 Montgomery—Corn Crops.
 O'Kane—Injurious Insects.
 Piper—Forage Plants.
 Powell—Co-operation in Agriculture.
 Sears—Productive Orchardng.
 Thorne—Farm Manures.
 Van Slyke—Modern Methods of Testing Milk.
 Vaughan—Types and Market—Classes of Livestock.
 Warren—Farm Management.
 Wing—Alfalfa Farming.
- Home Economics Books**
 Coleman—Successful Homes.
 Conley—Nutrition and Diet.
 Kinne—Shelter and Clothing.
 LeBosquet—Personal Hygiene.
 Parloa—Home Economics.
 Richardson—Better Babies.
 Robinson—Lessons in Cooking.
 Tweddell—How to Take Care of the Baby.

Men and Women Wanted--Government Positions

Forest assistant, industrial teacher, junior engineer, land law clerk, teacher, telegraph operator. Examination March 15. Stenographer and typewriter February 26. Quick preparation is necessary.

You Can Learn by Mail at Home, Study at Night.

Wouldn't you like a job for life with a steady income of \$75 to \$100 or more every month with a good chance for promotion? Then why not get it? We guarantee to prepare you for any civil service position, city, state or federal—coach you free until you get the position. Send for particulars.

CIVIL SERVICE SCHOOL

Kittredge Bldg., Denver

Northwestern Colorado Offers Opportunities for Homeseekers

Parties who returned last week from a several days trip into Colorado over on the western slope of the Great Divide brought back reports of opportunities that many people are loath to believe exist in this country today; opportunities, not only for the homeseeker, but for the farmer, rancher and for every line of business and enterprise.

Homeseekers who have been looking for months for a chance to make profitable use of their homestead rights are finding right there today the very thing they have been hunting for so long. Hotel registers in one of the small towns, a village of about 500 inhabitants, showed that people have been coming in there from nearly every state in the union at the rate of thirty to fifty a day for the past two months and the fact that many of them have remained, while nearly all that did not remain have filed and are planning to return before the six months elapses to take up their residence on a homestead shows conclusively what they think of the opportunities offered there.

Government statistics show that there is considerable government land in northwestern Colorado now open and soon to be opened for homestead entry. In this large area there are tracts of as rich soil as lie out of doors today. Some of the land is poor; and some of it is mountainous but the larger part of it is better than any territory in Uncle Sam's vast domain now available or that will be available for homesteading purposes.

A few years ago this territory was practically isolated. The only method of marketing products was by long hauls of fifty to one hundred and fifty miles to the nearest railroad. Within the past two years a railroad has penetrated the district and the country has since progressed by leaps and bounds. It is absolutely assured that two railroad companies will build into or through the territory within the next six to eighteen months. The Denver papers two weeks ago stated that the contract for the building of a north and south connection had been let to Kilpatrick Brothers, the men who own the large ranch near Alliance. Last week Wednesday's Denver Post stated that representatives of another road had been promised funds by eastern capitalists for the extension of the road already penetrating the territory.

With a means to reach the market the principal drawback is removed. With the means extended within a reasonable distance of all parts of the vast area it assures a rapid influx of settlers till in one to three years every available half section will be taken and land values will soar till they will find a ready sale on the market at prices that eastern Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois land is now bringing.

Land located within a reasonable distance of the railroad is now selling at as high as \$50 and \$60 per acre. Since the coming of the railroad farmers have experimented in growing various crops and have met with great success. Alfalfa, oats, wheat and potatoes are among the products that they have tried out with success and farmers and ranch-

ers all over the territory are putting their land under cultivation this season. Examination of their products and first hand information from the farmers on their own premises were the source from which the Alliance party gained reliable knowledge concerning the results of the first and second plantings on this soil. One of the Alliance party purchased a ton of the potatoes and shipped them to Alliance for seed.

Thousands and thousands of acres are covered with a growth of sage brush from one to three feet high and people who claim to know state that sage brush grows like this only on good soil.

A number of years ago a large portion of this territory was reserved by the government pending investigation as to the feasibility of irrigation systems. Some tracts have been put under irrigation. Other tracts were pronounced impractical for irrigation and are being restored for entry. In the latter is some of the finest rich black soil to be found anywhere and there are thousands of half sections available for homesteading every foot of which may be cultivated. These may be had along the routes of the two railroad lines and at points where small inland towns have sprung up and at places where others will eventually spring up. It is a question of only a few years time till many of these towns will be villages of 1000 to 2000 people and some of them will make small cities.

In the mountains are millions and millions of trees. Lumber camps and saw mills are already established in various parts of the territory. With the coming of the railroads the lumber business will develop into an enormous industry. Lumber for building purposes is cheap and there is plenty of wood for fuel within easy hauling distance of any part of the territory.

Coal underlies a greater part of the land. It has been said there is more coal in that section of Colorado than in the whole state of Pennsylvania and it is one of the few places outside the state of Pennsylvania today where anthracite coal is being mined. Coal can be bought there today for \$1.50 per ton. Splendid little coal mining towns have been built in the past few years along the line of the road east from this territory and with the coming of the shipping facilities the coal business will be given a boom which even without the agricultural possibilities would develop the country.

Everything points to a great future and that not very far distant. With the coal and lumber, the agriculture and livestock possibilities of this section there are apparently greater opportunities in that "Empire" as it is being termed than in any other spot in this great country.

Those who have been there say that the possibilities are unlimited, the climate unequalled, the water unexcelled and the scenery twelve months in the year unsurpassed.

This land is open in half sections for entry under the three year plan or one may file on a quarter section, live on it eight months, pay \$1.25 per acre and get a patent.